

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 2.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary because it is made in reply to arguments raised in the rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 3-6 and 8 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 27-28 have been previously canceled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 17, 2006, claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,210,598, hereinafter "Ohsawa") in view of Ochi (U.S. Patent No. 4,441,123). Also, claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Ohsawa in view of Ochi, and in further view of Miyake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,250, hereinafter “Miyake”). Claims 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsawa in view of Ochi, in further view of Miyake, and further in view of Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,666, hereinafter “Yamaguchi”). It is noted that claims 3-6 and 8 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Claims 3-6 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. As such, claims 3-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the feature “wherein the spacing between the monolayer electrodes above the transfer registers is made narrower than the spacing between the monolayer electrodes above isolation regions for electrically isolating the transfer registers adjacent to each other.” As noted in the outstanding Office Action, none of the applied art of record, or combination thereof, discloses or suggests such a feature. As such, claim 8 is allowable over the applied art of record.

As claim 8 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26, each of which depends from allowable claim 8, are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 8.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108235-00001.

Respectfully submitted,



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